

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

EXTRA

15 MAR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

There are indications that a power struggle is taking place within Souvanna's neutralist following at Khang Khay and that left-wing elements are gaining the ascendancy. The Communists appear apprehensive over Souvanna's recent contacts with Western ambassadors and may fear that he will reach an accomodation with the Vientiane leaders that would be unacceptable to them. If pro-Pathet Lao elements should in fact achieve dominance in Souvanna's neutralist group, it is doubtful that Souvanna could resist Pathet Lao pressures after a political settlement.

2. Algerian cease-fire talks continue

There are conflicting reports that the agreement would be signed today and that the talks had run into new problems. Looking ahead to an eventual cease-fire French officials in Algiers are expressing more confidence in their ability to reestablish control if the OAS takes over after the cease-fire. 50X1

The government expects "spectacular" OAS terrorism in France. In this context the matter of De Gaulle's personal security becomes more acute, particularly in the public appearances this week related to the visit of the President of Chad. 50X1

3. Guatemala

Student demonstrators have paralyzed key areas of Guatemala City. The Communist party--boasting that it supplied the leadership for the students--claims to have won a great objective in forcing the government to fire on the students. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the government has reported a clash with a small band about 20 miles from Guatemala City. A curfew and news blackout ~~was~~ declared last night and the army has seized the railroads, which are tied up by a strike in support of the students. The Communist Party of Guatemala is [REDACTED] believing it has the momentum to carry through and overthrow the government. This may be over optimistic but the situation definitely is precarious.

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4. Berlin

a. Four Soviet flights scheduled for last night were rescheduled for Friday. No reason was given; weather did not appear to be a factor. Six flights were scheduled for this morning in the southern corridor--three in each direction--at the same time as ten Western flights. There are no reports of untoward incidents.

b. There was a repetition of chaff-dropping in the southern corridor yesterday afternoon.

c. Yesterday the rotation--by autobahn--of the US battle group in Berlin was completed without incident.

d. The US Mission in Berlin reports growing concern among the West Berlin leadership over Soviet air corridor harassment and the Western response to it. Awareness of the population that the full story has not been made public, combined with incidents such as the shooting of a British military driver, are reported as contributing to an atmosphere of uneasiness.

5. Libya

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[redacted] Busairi Shalhi, the Royal Chamberlain, previously reported as planning a coup, is unlikely to move overtly to seize power prior to the death of the King, unless the King's increasing senility makes the succession of the Crown Prince imminent, or Shalhi's present strong position begins to deteriorate. Shalhi hesitates to move against the respected King, but would expect no popular opposition to his preventing the succession of the Crown Prince. 50X1

6. Congo

With Tshombé due in Leopoldville today, Adoula left town to fly to Coquilhatville in Equateur Province. The reason for the timing of the trip was not apparent, unless it is part of some sort of gamesmanship. Adoula plans to return tomorrow. We are not too hopeful of agreement on basic issues, but there is room for improvement in technical fields such as rail, air and telecommunications links between Leopoldville and Elisabethville.

7. Sino-Indian relations

We see little chance for a meeting of minds if India sticks by its conditions for negotiating the boundary question with Communist China. India wants China to publish the full text of the joint boundary commission report (which India believes supports its claims), to vacate the posts found at the 1960 Rangoon meeting to be in Indian territory, and declare the end of further encroachments. India also wants China to admit its error in building a road on land claimed by India.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--14 March 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

BERLIN: Soviet harassing and probing tactics against Allied access to Berlin will continue, especially in the air corridors. Bloc military activity suggests that the Communists do not expect their actions to provoke military confrontation in the immediate future.

LAOS: Limited objective attacks by both sides continue, although neither is attempting to achieve a military decision at this time. The increased tempo of Communist airlift support suggests stepped up logistic preparation for resumption of major operations should negotiations for a coalition government be terminated. The negotiations, however, are expected to continue.

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SOUTH VIETNAM: Despite vigorous government military operations, the Viet Cong continue to launch company and battalion-size attacks against lines of communications and isolated guard posts. Bloc propaganda against US assistance to South Vietnam and Communist logistical improvements in North Vietnam continue.



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B. Chinese Communist military flight activity into the Shuangchengtzu missile rangehead area suggests the possibility of a missile test firing there. Similar activity [redacted] that could have reflected a surface-to-surface missile-launch test in early December 1961. [redacted]

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C. King Saud [redacted] dissolved his Council of Ministers and is working with Prince Faysal to form a new Council. [redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE